

THE RUTHERFORD *Report*

THE NEWSLETTER OF SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JANICE RUTHERFORD

Fall 2017



Autumn is a second
spring when every
leaf is a flower.

—Albert Camus

Bishop, a pest detection canine, sniffs packages at local distribution facilities to determine if any of the parcels contain agricultural products that may be infested with crop-damaging pests.

Pest Detection Program Protects Crops

Bishop nosed his way through stacks of cardboard boxes at a local shipping facility before his keen sense of smell led him to his quarry—a box of flowers.

The spunky yellow Labrador retriever scratched the box with his front paw and peered up at his handler, San Bernardino County Agriculture/Weights and Measures Pest Exclusion Officer Kristina Cummings, who promptly rewarded him with a treat.

Bishop has been sniffing out agricultural items such as fruits, vegetables and flowers since December 2010 after he was rescued from a shelter and attended the United States Department of Agriculture National Detector Dog Training Center in Newnan, Georgia with Officer Cummings.

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Rancho Business Serves Hospitality Industry

As a boy, Henry Savedra Jr. would climb atop stacks of lumber at a factory in Tarzana and watch his father and grandfather make mid-century furniture for department stores such as Montgomery Ward and Sears.

Today, Henry is President/CEO of Tekton Hospitality—a Rancho Cucamonga-based company that supplies custom furniture and accessories to hotels, restaurants and other hospitality businesses across the nation.

“As I got older, it became something that I wanted to do,” Henry said as he explained how his early days watching his relatives led to his decades-long career in the furniture manufacturing industry.

Cutting wood and routing edges smooth weren’t the only skills Henry learned at the factory, which he worked at for 15 years before leaving to start his own company. He made it a point to understand every nook and cranny of the business, and he did it by sidling up with everyone from designers to craftsman to office support staff.

“I became the guy who was sitting by each person and learning what they did and absorbing everything that was there,” Henry said.

His next manufacturing venture in downtown Los Angeles ran into trouble when a union came in and demanded wages his company simply couldn’t afford, so he moved it

TEKTON, PAGE 4

Local Nonprofit Continues Branching Out

It's not a stretch to say the Incredible Edible Community Garden is spreading like weeds.

Since its founding in March 2009, the nonprofit has helped establish 10 community gardens throughout the valley. It also created three community fruit parks (including a fruit tree park in Montclair), two aquaponics gardens, a free fruit tree distribution program, and designed, funded, and planted Healing Grove Memorials in public parks with families of the 14 people killed in the Dec. 2, 2015, terrorist attack in San Bernardino.

San Antonio Heights resident Mary Petit started the organization after moving to California from Florida to be closer to family in 2007.

Not one to be a wallflower, Mary started looking for ways to get involved in her community. She joined the San Antonio Heights Association Board and began managing the community's monthly produce exchange in a parking lot at Life Bible Fellowship Church.

She also started looking for local community gardens.

"I think I started gardening when I was three years old," Mary said.

She was surprised to find there weren't any nearby, so she set out to start her own. She began passing out fliers in her neighborhood and soliciting donations from local businesses as well.

She got a big boost when a reporter from the Daily Bulletin wrote an article about her nonprofit, and soon she was receiving multiple offers from property owners who wanted to host a garden.

The group thought it had landed a site for the first garden in Upland, but nearby residents were opposed and the deal went south.

In the meantime, San Antonio Heights resident Holly Wood called Mary to let her know she was picking up several hundred seedlings for the garden from a nursery in Indio.

"I told her the whole thing fell through," Mary said.

Undeterred, Holly told Mary she got permission from the Pacific Christian Center in Upland to stage the young plants there. Mary also contacted her supporters to ask them to foster seedlings until she could secure a permanent site.

Officials at the Pacific Christian Center asked Mary to submit a proposal to their Board of Directors, and a few weeks later, the Board cleared the way for the community garden.

"All the gardeners came together, and we built the raised beds in the middle of August," Mary said. "We started planting in September."

During this time, Mary was contacted by Eleanor Torres of Ontario who offered to provide architectural work for the group. This was the beginning of their friendship, and eventually Eleanor accepted Mary's invitation to be Co-Executive Director of IECG.

"We have been friends for about eight years now, and we have built this organization into a multimillion-dollar nonprofit," Mary said.

In addition to establishing community gardens, the nonprofit has launched a number of other projects, such as the fruit gleaning program using volunteers to pick unwanted fruit from residents' backyards so the food could be donated to local food banks and churches.

The group received a grant from Cal Fire to develop the Veterans Living Memorial Garden at Cal State San Bernardino in 2013.

The memorial includes 15 fruitless olive trees and crepe myrtles which bloom in shades of red, white and blue. It's located just outside the university's Veterans Success Center.

Incredible Edible Community Garden is currently working on its most ambitious project yet—the Route 66 Veterans Memorial Corridor.

The goal is to plant 3,200 trees in honor of veterans from our communities along the entire stretch of old Route 66 in San Bernardino County. Each tree will honor a veteran with a permanent marker.

There will be kick-off events for the project at 10 a.m. on Oct. 12 in downtown Barstow, at 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 13 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8737 in San Bernardino, and at 2 p.m. on Oct. 13 at 18215 Foothill Boulevard in Fontana.

Visit www.iecgarden.org to learn more about this Second District nonprofit and check out the Incredible Edible Community Garden Facebook page.

PEST DETECTION, PAGE 1

His goal is to find items that might contain exotic pests such as fruit flies, citrus snow scale, gypsy moths, and Asian citrus psyllid, which can devastate the County's agricultural industry.

This time, however, the box Bishop sniffed out was labeled with a certification sticker from the USDA, so after giving the box a look for any signs of trouble, Officer Cummings, her partner Officer Kenny Nguyen, and Bishop continued their trek through the sprawling warehouse.

When Bishop discovers packages that raise alarm, the items are quarantined and sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture for testing. The State grades the pest as either A, Q or C.

C = already established in the County

A = not established and potential for environmental detriment

Q = may cause environmental detriment, but not enough information to know for sure

Officer Cummings said inspections at private shipping facilities such as FedEx and UPS often don't yield as many hits as those done at the U.S. Post Office facility in Redlands, probably because the latter is the go-to source for people sending backyard produce to friends and relatives.

Still, the County's pest detection team has had major finds at private shipping facilities.

Recently Bishop sniffed out a package of tropical flowers from Ecuador and a shipment of fresh herbs from Florida that were both found to have potentially invasive pests

Bishop has also found properly labeled packages that ended up being infested with potentially crop-damaging pests.

Labrador retrievers like Bishop are especially good at this type of work because of their penchant for searching for stuff and because they are food motivated, which means rewards drive them to keep sniffing packages.

They also have about 25 times more olfactory receptors than humans, and their long noses allow them to discriminate between a range of scents even in minute quantities.

Per USDA rules, Bishop stays at a dog kennel when he's not on the beat.

Federal rules also require the County to retire the dog after he turns 9. When that happens, Officer Cummings plans to adopt him.

"Bishop loves his job, and his enthusiasm is contagious!" Officer Cummings said.

You can learn more about the San Bernardino County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures Pest Control Division at <http://cms.sbcounty.gov/awm/PestPreventionDivision.aspx>.

2nd District Trivia

Last Issue's Answer: What San Bernardino County resident is credited with planting the first orange trees in the County in 1857? Anson Van Leuven (He was also the County's sixth Sheriff and represented the area in the California Assembly.)

Question: What was the name of San Bernardino County's first hometown newspaper?

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to Mexico where he ran into other issues that eventually prompted him to close the factory.

He went on to start a manufacturing consulting business, and after that, he helped found other hospitality furniture manufacturing companies. He directed the development for one of the company's manufacturing plants in China for 28 years. He stayed in China for a month and in the U.S. for a month over the course of nearly three decades and racked up more than 2.9 million frequent flyer miles in the process.

But he missed spending time with his family, and he also started to realize China was no longer the bastion of inexpensive manufacturing it once was.

Henry decided to start his own furniture business and set out to find the perfect location in his home state of California. He eventually landed a 119,000-square-foot facility on Arrow Route in Rancho Cucamonga.

The building offered space for millwork and finishing as well as shipping and warehousing products. Its proximity to Ontario International Airport and other shipping hubs as well as the area's large labor pool and sunny weather clinched the deal.

Tekton Hospitality opened in July 2015. You can learn more about this local business by visiting <http://tektonhospitality.com>.

Upcoming Events

October 21	The City of Upland will host the second annual Monster Mash Pet Dash from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Memorial Park. The event will feature pet costume contests, demonstrations, give-a-ways and more.
October 21	The City of Fontana will host Halloween Howl from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Fontana Dog Park, 15556 Summit Avenue. The event will feature a dog costume contest and canine trick or treating. All dogs must be on a leash.
October 21	The Etiwanda Historical Society will host a showing of Sleepy Hollow from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Chaffey-Garcia House, 7150 Etiwanda Avenue. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children. Call (909) 899-8432 for more information.
October 21	The City of Rancho Cucamonga will host the Spooktacular Festival from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the RC Family Resource Center, 9791 Arrow Route, Rancho Cucamonga. Enjoy food, music, face painting, balloon artists, costume contests and more.
October 31	The following Halloween-themed events will be taking place from 4 to 7 p.m. in the City of Fontana. Call (909) 349-6900 for information. Harvest Festival at the Cypress Center, 8380 Cypress Avenue Fangtastic Night at the Don Day Center, 14501 Live Oak Avenue Halloween Spooktacular "Trunk or Treat" at the Jessie Turner Center, 15556 Summit Avenue Dia De Los Muertos (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at the Jack Bulik Center, 16581 Filbert Street
October 31	The City of Upland will host the Scary-A-Faire Celebration from 5 to 8 p.m. in historic downtown Upland. The event will feature costume contests, food vendors, game booths and more. Call (909) 931-4280 for more information.
November 4	The Rancho Cucamonga Service Council will host the Rancho Cucamonga Service Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Central Park, 11200 Base Line Road. The event will feature local service agencies as well as face painting, balloon art, and other family activities.
November 10-11	The City of Fontana Youth Community Theater will present "Suessical Jr." at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Friday and at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday at the Steelworkers' Auditorium located at 8437 Sierra Avenue. Tickets cost \$12. Call (909) 429-7469 for information.
November 11	The 13th annual Tour De Foothill bike event starts at 5:30 a.m. Visit www.tourdefoothills.com for more information.
November 23	The City of Upland will host the 10th annual Turkey Trot featuring a 5K run and a 1k kiddie trot. The event begins at 8 a.m. at San Antonio Park located on the corner of Mountain Avenue and 24th Street. Call (909) 931-4280 for registration information.
December 2	Experience an Old Fashioned Christmas from 3 to 7 p.m. at the historic John Rains House, 8810 Hemlock Drive, Rancho Cucamonga. The event will feature homemade cookies, hand-crafted decorations, hot cider and traditional holiday music. The cost is \$8 for guests 12 and older and \$5 for guests 11 and younger. Call (909) 989-4970 for more information.
December 9	The Upland Recreation and Community Services Division, Upland-Foothill Kiwanis, and Boy Scouts Troop 601 teamed up again to bring Santa Claus down from the North Pole for the annual Breakfast With Santa event at the Gibson Senior Center, 250 N. Third Avenue. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee and will be served from 8 to 10 a.m. The cost is \$5. Call (909) 931-4280 for information.

Dates and times are subject to change without notice. Please contact Supervisor Rutherford's office at (909) 387-4833 if you have any questions or suggestions for the Events Calendar. You can view information about more local events on Supervisor Rutherford's home page at www.sbcounty.gov/rutherford.